

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response. This complete set of claims excludes cancelled claims 43 and 44 and includes amended claims 9, 10, 13, 35, 42, 46, and 47.

1-8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a drug-eluting lead containing drug-eluting means for dispensing a drug, the lead having a distal tip, the method comprising the steps of:

providing said the endocardial lead;

securing the endocardial lead to a jig;

combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a mixture thereof;

applying the mixture to the distal tip of the lead; and

allowing the mixture to cure in place in the lead;

wherein allowing the mixture to cure in place in the lead comprises elevating the temperature of the jig to cure the mixture.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of combining comprises the steps of:

combining a wetting fluid component and the inflammation-reducing drug to form a first mixture;

combining the first mixture and a base component to form a second mixture;

combining the second mixture and a curing component to form a third mixture;

and

applying the third mixture into the distal tip of the lead; and curing the third mixture applied to the tip at a predetermined temperature.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the curing step comprises the step of elevating the temperature to the predetermined value being in the range of about 40 degrees C to 75 degrees C.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a first mixture comprises the step of providing a steroid for the inflammation-reducing drug.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a second mixture comprises the step of providing a mixture of dimethylsiloxane polymer and a reinforcing silicone silica for the base component.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a third mixture comprises the step of providing a platinum catalyst for the curing component.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the curing step comprises setting the predetermined temperature to 55 degrees C.

16-34. (Previously Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an endocardial lead, the method comprising:

combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a mixture thereof;

securing the endocardial lead to a jig;

dispensing the mixture to a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and

allowing the mixture to cure at the distal portion of the endocardial lead;

wherein allowing the mixture to cure comprises elevating the temperature of the jig to cure the mixture.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the applying the mixture to a distal portion comprises applying the mixture within a chamber of the endocardial lead.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the endocardial lead is a passive lead.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the endocardial lead is an active fixation lead.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the inflammation-reducing drug is a steroid.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer comprises:

combining a wetting fluid component and the inflammation-reducing drug to form a first mixture;

combining the first mixture and a base component to form a second mixture;

combining the second mixture and a curing component to form a third mixture;

applying the third mixture to a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and

curing the third mixture at a predetermined temperature.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined temperature is in the range of about 40 degrees C to 75 degrees C.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the base component is dimethylsiloxane polymer and a reinforcing silicone silica, and wherein the curing component is a platinum catalyst.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 further comprising: A method of manufacturing an endocardial lead, the method comprising: combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a pourable mixture thereof;

providing a chamber at the distal portion of the endocardial lead;
securing the endocardial lead to a jig; and
dispensing the pourable mixture into a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and
curing the pourable mixture in the distal portion of the endocardial lead;
wherein the dispensing the pourable mixture comprises dispensing the mixture
within the chamber; and
wherein the curing comprises elevating the temperature of the jig to cure the pourable mixture within the chamber.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[43]] 45 wherein the endocardial lead is a passive fixation lead.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[43]] 45 wherein the endocardial lead is an active fixation lead.